Availing Five Indian Posts by the US to Combat Terrorism in Afghanistan

2474. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States has requested India to make five Indian posts available in connection with her efforts to combat terrorism in Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the details of the request received; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto and by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Development of Fifth generation fighter Aircraft with Russian Collaboration

†2475. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to develop the fifth generation figther Aircraft under military and technical assistance with Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress in the production of multipurpose goods carrier fighter aircraft under Indo-Russian cooperation so far; and

(d) the defence related matters discussed during the Prime Minister's recent visit to Russia and the contracts signed with Russia?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) In the first meeting of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission, the Indian side agreed to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.